

What is claimed is:

1. A system of managing image data in a network, comprising:

an image input device;
an image forming device including storage means for storing image data inputted by the image input device, at least one of the image input device and the image forming device being connected to the network; and
a client computer, connected to the network, for managing the image data stored in the storage means via the network.

2. The system according to claim 1, wherein the image forming device further includes a converter and a network interface;

the storage means comprises a binary data storage section for storing the image data as binary data and a text data storage section for storing text data converted from the binary data by the converter; and

the network interface includes a software for managing the text data, and transmits the text data stored in the text data storage section to the client computer.

3. A method of managing image data in a network, comprising the steps of:

connecting at least one of an image input device and an image forming device to the network;
connecting a client computer to the network;

storing image data inputted by the image input device in storage means of the image forming device; and

carrying out management of the image data stored in the storage means from the client computer via the network.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein when the image data is a character image, the character image is stored in two data formats of binary data and text data, the text data being made by converting the binary data;

and when inspecting the image data in the client computer, the text data is transferred to the client computer.